

To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

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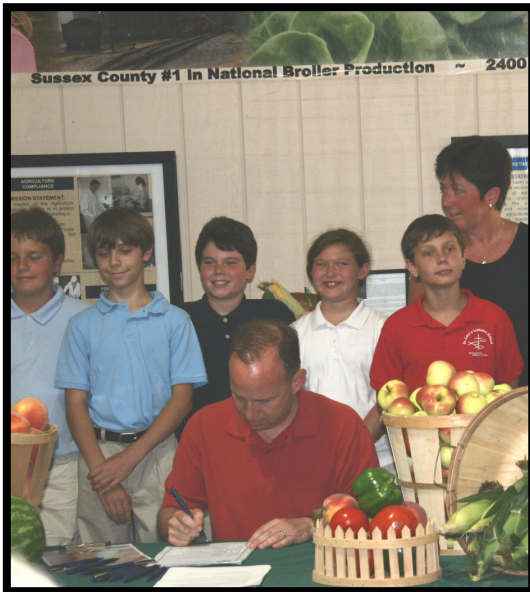
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Governor's Day highlights from the Delaware Department of Agriculture

The Delaware Department of Agriculture welcomed Governor Jack Markell to the Agricultural Commodities and Education buildings this morning as the Governor celebrated his first Governor's Day as Governor. Highlights of his visit follow:



As the principal and students from St. John's Lutheran School in Dover watched, Governor Markell signed HB 99 that makes Peach Pie the official Delaware dessert.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Darryl Scott and Sen. Brian Bushweller, was introduced in the General Assembly at the request of the fifth and sixth grade classes at St. John's Lutheran School in Dover.

Governor Markell said, "This is what democracy is all about. I am really impressed with the amount of research and effort the students put into this project. Their sense of history and appreciation of our agricultural heritage is evident in this bill."

Governor Markell announced the first round results of the Delaware Forestland Preservation Program – purchase of conservation easements on nine parcels of forestland in Kent and Sussex Counties totaling over 835 acres, plus another four parcels accepted by the Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation. In his remarks, Governor Markell said, the 835 acres were made possible with the help of the Delaware Chapter of the Nature Conservancy that generously donated \$500,000 to the preservation effort.



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Governor Markell said, not only is today, Governor's Day, it is also *Thank a Farmer for Your Food Day*. In celebration of the day, seven very generous farmers and Mountaire Farms donated food to the Food Bank and to the Sussex County Food Pantry on my behalf. Thank you for sharing healthy, delicious fruits, vegetables, and chicken with those in need. Your generosity or their generosity that helps those:

- 6 Pallets of Watermelons
- 8 Pallets of Peppers
- 50 Boxes of Tomatoes
- 5 Baskets of Apples
- 5 Baskets of Peaches
- 10 Crates of Sweet Corn
- 1,000 lbs. of Chicken.

All together the donation comes to 13,460 individual servings!"